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163-3906

9 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: National Security Council Standing Group Meeting of
May 7th**

1. Mr. Bundy announced that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, 14 May, in the afternoon and that the agenda would probably be large. Mr. Wilson of USIA stated that USIA was concentrating on five themes as regards Cuba: (1) Economic deterioration of Castro; (2) Castro betrayed the purpose of the original revolution; (3) Cuba was isolated from its Latin American neighbors; (4) Soviet Communism had been imposed on Cuba; and (5) the U. S. policy was that some day Cuba would be free. Wilson pointed out that only Number 5 was a positive theme. There then followed a discussion of the paper proposed by USIA as a statement of U. S. policy. Bundy pointed out that it appeared to say that any Cuba not Soviet/Communist dominated was acceptable to the United States. He did not feel this was our policy. Sorensen said that we needed more specifics and suggested a study jointly by State and CIA which would attempt to tabulate under fifteen or twenty headings, such as: (1) religion; (2) race relations; (3) housing; (4) education, etc. (a) the situation in Cuba under Batista; (b) under Castro (what he promised and what he gave); (c) what the U. S. would be prepared to accept in a post-Castro regime, and finally (d) what help the United States might give.

2. It was generally agreed that a statement was needed by USIA but who would give it and when was inconclusive.

3. Upon conclusion of the meeting, I informed Sheldon and asked him to see that ONE and OCI started thinking about the foregoing. I then assigned action to Cheever, told him to touch base with ONE and OCI, and I subsequently informed Helms of this assignment of responsibility.

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(EXECUTIVE DECISION)

16/M.S.C./K.C.
M.S.C.*Reid*

MSC:bec (9 May 63)

Orig - O/DCI (Mr. Knoche by hand)

T - DDCI